

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9409

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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LONDON FOR MARITIME ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, PO, UR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED POOLING ARRANGEMENT FOR MERCHANT FLEET

REF: A) LISBON 6671, B) STATE 249809

1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MERCHANT MARINE, ANTONIO CRISOSTOMO TEIXEIRA, ON DECEMBER 2 AT LATTER'S REQUEST. TEIXEIRA HAD RECEIVED CABLE FROM NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE OF COMPANHIA DE TRANSPORTES MARITIMOS (CTM) , WHO HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY AMERICAN EXPORT LINES (AEL). AEL BELIEVED THAT PROPOSED \$300 MILLION U.S. LOAN AND FURTHER \$1.5 BILLION MULTILATERAL AID PACKAGE WERE DESIGNED TO FINANCE COMMODITY SHIPMENTS. IN DESIRE TO GET LARGE PART OF SUPPOSED SHIPMENTS, AEL REINFORCED ITS PREVIOUS OFFER TO CTM FOR POOLING ARRANGEMENT (SEE REF A).

2. TEIXEIRA SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN DIRECTLY CONTACTED BY NUMBER OF OTHER FIRMS WHO ALSO HAD THE IDEA THAT LOAN PACKAGE WAS FOR COMMODITIES. EMBASSY OFFICER EMPHASIZED THAT PROPOSED LOANS, IF CONCLUDED, WOULD BE FOR BALANCE
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OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT, NOT FOR COMMODITY FINANCING.

3. MERCHANT MARINE SECRETARY ASKED FOR REAFFIRMATION OF WHAT HE UNDERSTOOD TO BE U.S. MARITIME POLICY CONCERNING POOLING ARRANGEMENTS. HE NOTED THAT IN THE PAST U.S. HAD ACCEPTED SOME POOLING ARRANGEMENTS, E.G. WITH BRAZIL. EMBASSY OFFICER STATED THAT GENERAL U.S. POLICY WAS NOT TO ENCOURAGE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS, BUT RATHER TO ACCEPT THEM ONLY AS A LAST RESORT.

4. IN DISCUSSION OF POOLING ARRANGEMENTS, TEIXEIRA RAISED SUBJECT OF EXISTING BILATERAL SHIPPING AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION. THIS ACCORD, TEIXEIRA EMPHASIZED, WOULD PROVIDE A 40/40/20 POOL, BUT NEITHER SIDE HAS RATIFIED THE AGREEMENT. SOVIET MERCHANT MARINE REPRESENTATIVES WHO WERE IN LISBON LAST WEEK REPORTEDLY MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF RATIFYING THE AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO TEIXEIRA, SOVIETS APPARENTLY HAVE FOUND IT MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO ALLOW GREATER LIBERALIZATION OF "CROSS SHIPPING" BY THIRD COUNTRIES.

5. COMMENT: CLEARLY MERCHANT MARINE SECRETARY IS NOT CONVINCED THAT POOLING ARRANGEMENT WITH AEL IS EITHER NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE. HE RAISED SUBJECT MAINLY BECAUSE OF PRESSURE ON HIM ORIGINATING FROM AEL. INDEED, HE ALMOST APPEARED TO INVITE A STRONG STATEMENT OF U.S. OPPOSITION. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON POOLING ARRANGEMENT PROPOSAL.
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